UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF MUSIC

Thursday at Noon Concert featuring Orkest De Ereprijs

Presented by Norbert Palej

2025 University of Toronto New Music Festival
Reza Vali, Roger D. Moore Distinguished Visitor in Composition
Norbert Palej, *festival coordinator*

Thursday, January 30, 2025 at 12:10pm | Walter Hall, 80 Queen's Park

PROGRAM

Concertino for Orkest
Kevin Hayward

…in a stupor…
Alexander La

Mirrors
David Archibald

Neon Vanish
Hsiu-Ping Patrick Wu

Riffs and Rhythms
J.S. Park

Towards the Sunset
Menelaos Peistikos

Burger Smash
Anthony Gunadi

We wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years, it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.

As part of the Faculty's commitment to improving Indigenous inclusion, we call upon all members of our community to start/continue their personal journeys towards understanding and acknowledging Indigenous peoples' histories, truths and cultures. Visit indigenous.utoronto.ca to learn more.

ORKEST DE EREPRIJS

Jeroen van Dijk, *French horn*
Jacqueline van Brink, *flute*
André Groen, *percussion*
Erik-Jan de With, *saxophone*
Lars Wouters van den Oudenweijer, *clarinet*
Sabine Laar, *saxophone*
Joost van Genugten, *tuba*
Sjors van der Mark, *guitar*
Sjoerd Pauw, *trumpet*
Beppie Schalken, *trombone*
Herman Lamers, *bass*
Marije van den Berg, *flute*
Peter de Hoop, *trombone*
Aljosja Buijs, *piano/keyboard*
Gregory Charette, *conductor*

PROGRAM NOTES

...in a stupor...

i find myself stumbling through busy streets, my heartbeat pounding in my skull. blurry streams of colour flood my vision; my tired legs dragging across the wet concrete. everytime i blink i'm somewhere else. i wish i could remember how i got here.

Mirrors was written for Orkest de Ereprijs at the 2025 UTNMF and employs its unorthodox instrumentation to explore pervasive repetitive minimalist textures that refract and reflect material through the ensemble's diverse timbral array; morphing into and out of slow changes in a driving and polyrhythmic structure. What this piece attempts to do is challenge the focus of individual performers in prolonged repetitive material to by way of this repetition find satisfaction in the larger texture and progression that ensues.

Neon Vanish

Growing up in Taiwan, I had many memories about the trips I took on the trains back home. Whenever I'm waiting, I will hear the whistle, and a neon colour rushing by. The trains never stopped running until its recent replacement with a newer model. Faster, more convenient, but does not feel the same. I wanted to capture that feeling with *Neon Vanish* through phasing and the traditional Taiwanese melodies.

Towards the Sunset

The composition is inspired by Zen philosophy, traditional music for shakuhachi (Honkyoku) and the music of Somei Satoh. It is influenced by the concept of music as a tool of meditation (like the music for solo shakuhachi), and as such, it attempts to bring the listeners to a state of solitary contemplation.

Burger smash, infused with my fondness for electronic dance music, is silly and quirky, yet it has a dark tone presenting a short musical commentary about desensitization in general on a personal and societal level. How many times can you smash a burger before it turns into soup?

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

Orkest de Ereprijs performs works by living composers, as well as interdisciplinary projects by a diverse group of creators in genres such as dance, theatre and film. We commission young composers with professional pieces for our orchestra and perform these in The Netherlands and internationally, in order to support young talent. So far, we have commissioned over four hundred compositions. Our assignments and concerts are often multidisciplinary, involving singers, instrumentalists, electronic art, dance, theatre and film.

Our orchestra is *the* ensemble for contemporary music in the East of the Netherlands. We collaborate with many partners and take our place as a living instrument focusing on interdisciplinarity, education, talent development and innovation. Through this perspective, we have gained a unique and renowned position within young composed music world-wide. We reach a broad and diverse audience: young and old, connoisseurs and professionals, insiders and outsiders.

Gregory Charette has been conductor at De Ereprijs since 2021. Among other projects, he conducts the annual Young Composers Meeting, the yearly Andriessen Festival, re-Generation concert series and education projects with ArtEZ, University of the Arts.
Gregory is deeply committed to the performance and promotion of new music. In addition to his work with De Ereprijs, he is a regular guest conductor with ASKO | Schönberg and Collegium Novum Zürich, among other ensembles.

Anthony Gunadi is a Canadian classical composer from Mississauga inspired by film and jazz music, with a background in electronic dance music production. His achievements include winning Orchestra Toronto's 2023-24 Prize in Composition and the University of Toronto's 2023-24 Piano Trio Composition Competition with the Bedford Trio. In 2025, the Standing Wave ensemble will premiere *Magenta Pastures* at the Annex in Vancouver, and he is the game audio lead and game design lead of *Cooking With A Gun* by Simon Chen. He is currently studying in Professor Norbert Palej's studio as a third-year undergraduate composition specialist at the University of Toronto. Visit www.anthonygunadi.com to get in contact or for more information.

Menelaos Peistikos (b. 1995) is a Greek composer, pianist, and novelist. He was selected among the winners in several world and panhellenic composition competitions and calls for scores such as the 7th Molinari String Quartet World Composition Competition (3rd Prize and 1st Prize of the Public), the 4th Opus Dissonus Composition Competition for solo piano (2ndPrize), 2024 SEED Composition Academy, and the 2021 Open Call for Young Greek Composers – Israeli Chamber Project. Over the past three years, his compositional style has shifted in response to his growing interest in Zen Buddhist philosophy and traditional Japanese music. His recent works emphasize sound color as a medium for meditation and emotional depth, something which allowed him to create works that invite listeners into a space of solitude and existential reflection. Menelaos holds an MA in Composition in University of Toronto under the supervision of composer Christos Hatzis, and since September 2022 he began there his DMA in Composition where he is admitted with a full scholarship. Menelaos is the recipient of Nikos Evdemon Graduate Scholarship, University of Toronto Fellowship and the Hellenic Initiative Scholarship. Before continuing his studies with Professor Hatzis, Menelaos studied composition for seven years with Professor Altin Volaj. He has also received music theory degrees (Counterpoint and Fugue) and the Diploma in Composition with Professor Costas Tsougras, and the Degree in Piano with Professor Victoria Victoratou from the State Conservatory of Thessaloniki. Menelaos also holds a BA Honours Degree from the Department of Journalism and Mass Communications at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. In

December 2024, he made his debut as a writer with his philosophical fiction novel ΜΑΚΑΡΙΟΙ ΘΕΑΤΕΣ (BLESSED VIEWERS) published in Greek language.

David Archibald is a composer, pianist, and multi-instrumentalist whose music exhibits a unique blend of his diverse interests from the musical influences of his piano performance studies, his love of jazz, improvisation, popular music, and passion for literature. Archibald's compositional style weaves a patchwork of classic and contemporary sounds and ranges widely in instrumentation and form. His music has been performed in his home of the Maritimes, in Stratford, Ontario, at the University of Toronto, in a commission and performance by the Upper Canada Choristers in Toronto for their 30th anniversary, and at the Lunenberg Academy of Music Performance, and elsewhere. Archibald currently lives and works in Toronto where he is in his final year as a graduate composition student at U of T.

Taiwanese-Canadian violinist-composer **Hsiu-Ping Patrick Wu** is constantly on the search for musical language on different sides of the spectrum. Like his multifaceted identity, Wu's music ranges from the style of neo-romanticism to avant-garde soundscapes, fusing theatrical elements and improvisational techniques.
https://www.patrickwumusic.com/

Alexander La is a Canadian composer and pianist dedicated to exploring different perspectives through music. Drawing from a background mixed with jazz, classical, and rock, as well as a passion for boundary pushing music across various genres, Alexander aims to offer audiences a gateway into new worlds of sound.